



**U.S. Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney's Office  
Western District of Texas**

**Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**LEADER OF CASTILLION DRUG ORGANIZATION  
SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON ON DRUG CHARGE**

**(SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS)** United States Attorney **Johnny Sutton** announced today that 30-year-old ALEJANDRO NOE CASTILLION, head of the Castillion drug organization based in Eagle Pass, TX, was sentenced to 295 months in federal prison for distributing over a ton of cocaine.

In addition, U.S. District Judge Edward C. Prado also sentenced three of Castillion's co-defendants this afternoon. Castillion's "lieutenant," 21-year-old RENE CAMPOS of San Antonio was sentenced to 270 months in federal prison for conspiring to distribute cocaine, possession of a firearm during a drug trafficking crime and conspiracy to launder money. JOSE ANGEL GARCIA-ARGUELLO, age 31 of San Antonio was sentenced to 12 months in federal prison for misprision of felony. Finally, RENE COTA, age 21, of San Antonio, was sentenced to 60 months in federal prison for distributing cocaine.

In November 2002, a federal grand jury return an indictment against 15 members of drug trafficking organization. The organization allegedly smuggled cocaine from Mexico into Eagle Pass. From Eagle Pass, members of the organization would store the cocaine inside hidden compartments of a vehicle then transport it to stash houses in San Antonio. From San Antonio, the cocaine would be distributed to various locations around the country including Dallas, TX; Houston, TX; Milwaukee, WI; Chicago, IL; New York, NY; Columbus, OH; and Kansas City, MO. Based on drug ledgers seized in the case, the organization distributed over a ton of cocaine and grossed at least \$22 million in drug proceeds from the summer of 2001 through the fall of 2002. During this investigation, authorities seized approximately 120 kilograms of cocaine (street value estimated at \$2.4 Million), \$521,650 in cash, 16 assault rifles, two machine guns, 11 handguns and 25 vehicles.

RAMIRO RABAGO-FIGUEROA, age 19, of San Antonio was sentenced as part of this investigation on April 17, 2003, to 50 months in federal prison for possession with intent to distribute cocaine. Five additional co-defendants have been convicted and are awaiting sentencing: 30-year-old REYNALDO HERNANDEZ of Eagle Pass faces between 10 years to life in federal prison after pleading guilty to distribution of cocaine and money laundering; 27-year-old LORI ANN HERNANDEZ (A.K.A MARIA LUISA RODRIGUEZ) of Eagle Pass faces up to three years in federal prison after pleading guilty to misprision of felony; 38-year-old EDWARD SCOTT LOPEZ of Garland, TX, faces between five and 40 years in federal prison after pleading guilty to conspiracy to distribute cocaine; 30-year-old ESTEBAN GARZA, JR., of San Antonio faces between 10 years and life in federal prison after pleading guilty to distribution of cocaine; and, 44-year-old GUSTAVO CEDILLO of Eagle Pass faces between five and 40 years in federal prison after pleading guilty to distribution of cocaine.

JESSE SALAZAR RAMIREZ, age 33, and 28-year-old CHARLES CRUZ are currently in federal custody awaiting their June 23<sup>rd</sup> trial date. Rameriz and Cruz face various drug, money laundering and firearms charges. Four defendants remain fugitives in this case.

This investigation was conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration, Texas Department of Public Safety Narcotics, Immigration and Naturalization Service, San Antonio Police Department, Schertz Police Department, Alamo Area Narcotics Task Force, Eagle Pass Police Department, Maverick County Sheriff's Office, Guadalupe County Sheriff's Office, Bexar County Constable – Precinct 4 and the Bexar County District Attorney's Office.

Assistant United States Attorney Joey Contreras prosecuted this case on behalf of the government.

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